American Chemistry Council Good Chemistry Makes It Possible

June 13, 2006

Mr. Christopher Salmi
Assistant Director,
Bureau of Air Quality Management
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 418
401 E. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625-0418

Re: Comments on May 31, 2006 Draft White Papers for Air Emission Control Strategies

Dear Mr. Salmi,

The American Solvents Council (Council) is pleased to provide comments on the white papers relating to VOC control that were posted on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website on May 22, 2006.

The American Solvents Council is part of the American Chemistry Council and represents major U.S. manufacturers of hydrocarbon and oxygenated organic solvents.[1] The Council was formed to address health, safety, and environmental issues that affect producers and users of hydrocarbon and oxygenated solvents. The Council has supported research pertaining to the role VOCs may play in ozone formation under different environmental conditions, and has worked with federal and state agencies on the development of effective policies and strategies for addressing tropospheric ozone-related problems. In particular, the Council has played an active role in the U.S. EPA's Reactivity Research Work Group, including its science and policy task groups, and ARB's Reactivity Research Advisory Committee.

The white papers addressing measures to control VOCs do not take into account recent scientific advances on understanding issues related to ozone formation or guidance from EPA (September 2005) to consider reactivity-based strategies to achieve reductions in ozone formation. New Jersey's reliance on mass-based reductions has the potential to result in increases in ozone formation in certain categories, rather than decreases (ozone disbenefit). The potential for ozone disbenefit was one of the key factors which led California to develop a reactivity-based approach for aerosol coatings.[2] Further, for

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1 The following companies are members of the American Solvents Council: The Dow Chemical Company; ExxonMobil Chemical Company; Shell Chemical LP; Eastman Chemical Company; Sasol North America, Incorporated; and CITGO Petroleum Corporation.

2 The ruling on aerosol coatings can be found at : http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2005/September/Day-13/a18016.htm

regions where VOC controls are effective at reducing ambient ozone levels, consideration of reactivity-based approaches has the potential to result in greater ozone reductions than mass-based approaches. This is because reactivity-based approaches target reduction of those VOCs with the greatest ozone formation potential and encourage formulators to use lower-reactivity solvents. Categories for which reactivity-based approaches might be appropriate include industrial maintenance coatings, industrial surface coatings and several consumer product categories.

The American Solvents Council has shared information on reactivity-based VOC control strategies with the New Jersey DEP VOC workgroup, including a white paper summarizing some of the recent science and regulatory advances. The Council urges the state of New Jersey to consider innovative approaches, such as relative reactivity, that can help the state achieve its air quality targets and welcomes the opportunity to further discuss reactivity-based approaches.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Francis, manager of the American Solvents Council at (703) 741-5609 or by email at Barbara_Francis@americanchemistry.com.

Sincerely,

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Vice President, CHEMSTAR